IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An image processing apparatus in which an input image information data which is an image information data contained in an input image signal is synthesized with a synthesizing image information data which is an image information data different from the input image information data, the image processing apparatus comprising:

synthesizing image information data holding means for holding a plurality of the synthesizing image information data;

synthesis control means for controlling synthesis of the input image information data and the plurality of the input synthesizing image information data which are held in the synthesizing image information data holding means, for every arbitrary area of the input image corresponding to the input image information data; and

image information data synthesis means for synthesizing the input image information data and the synthesizing image information data according to the control by means of the synthesis control means.

Claim 2 (Original): The image processing apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the synthesizing image holding means holds the synthesizing image information data as a data on a pixel-by-pixel basis.

Claim 3 (Original): The image processing apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the synthesizing image holding means holds information data obtained by arranging the synthesizing image information data in a table.

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Claim 4 (Original): The image processing apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the synthesis control means includes control information data holding means for holding control information data about control of synthesis of the synthesizing image information data and the input image information data, so as to control the synthesis of the synthesizing image information data and the input image information data according to the control information data held in the control information data holding means.

Claim 5 (Original): The image processing apparatus as recited in Claim 4, wherein:

the control information data is an information data for specifying, in the arbitrary area, the synthesizing image information data corresponding to a synthesizing image to be superimposed on the input image by selecting it from the plurality of synthesizing image information data held in the synthesizing image information data holding means, based on the control information data, the synthesis control means determines whether or not each of the plurality of synthesizing image information data held in the synthesizing image information data holding means is synthesized with the input image information data, such that the synthesizing image information data which has been determined to be synthesized is controlled to be synthesized with the input image information data, and based on the control by means of the synthesis control means, the image information data synthesis means synthesizes the input image information data and the synthesizing image information data so as to superimpose the input image on the synthesizing image in the arbitrary area.

Claim 6 (Original): The image processing apparatus as recited in Claim 4, wherein:

the control information data is an information data for specifying the synthesizing ratio of each image information data in the arbitrary area, when mixing the input image with the synthesizing image corresponding to the plurality of synthesizing image information data

held in the synthesizing image information data holding means, based on the control information data, the synthesis control means controls the plurality of synthesizing image information data held at the synthesizing image information data holding means so as to be synthesized with the input image information data at the specified synthesizing ratio, and based on the control by means of the synthesis control means, the image information data synthesis means synthesizes the input image information data and the synthesizing image information data so as to mix the input image and the synthesizing image at the specified synthesizing ratio in the arbitrary area.

Claim 7 (Original): The image processing apparatus as recited in Claim 4, wherein:

the synthesis control means further includes, in the arbitrary area, graphics determination means for determining whether or not graphics exist in the synthesizing image corresponding to the synthesizing image information data synthesized with the input image information data, and when it is determined that there are not graphics by way of the determination through the graphics determination means, the synthesis control means controls the synthesizing image information data so as not to be synthesized with the input image information data.

Claim 8 (Original): The image processing apparatus as recited in Claim 4, wherein:

an amount of data of the control information data is smaller than an amount of data of the synthesizing image information data held in the synthesizing image information data holding means.

Claim 9 (Original): The image processing apparatus as recited in Claim 4, wherein:

the control information data is information data on a pixel-by-pixel basis.

Claim 10 (Original): The image processing apparatus as recited in Claim 4, wherein:

the control information data is an information data obtained by arranging transition

points where control changes, in a table.

Claim 11 (Original): The image processing apparatus as recited in Claim 1, further

including:

address information data generation means for generating the address information

data which indicates a location in a screen for the input image, wherein

based on the address information data generated by the address information data

generation means, the synthesis control means controls the synthesis of the input image

information data and the plurality of synthesizing image information data held in the

synthesizing image information data holding means such that synthesis locations of the

synthesizing image information data and the input image information data may be positioned

properly.

Claim 12 (Original): The image processing apparatus as recited in Claim 11, further

including:

synchronizing signal separation means for separating a synchronizing signal added to

the input image information data, wherein

the address information data generation means generates the address information data,

based on the synchronizing signal separated from the input image information data by the

synchronizing signal separation means.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An image processing method for an image

processing apparatus in which a synthesizing image information data which is an image

information data different from an input image information data is synthesized with the input

image information data which is an image information data contained in an input image

signal, the image processing method including ~~the steps of~~:

~~a synthesizing image information data hold control step of~~ controlling hold of a

plurality of the synthesizing image information data;

~~a synthesis control step of~~ controlling synthesis of the input image information data

and the plurality of synthesizing image information data which are controlled and held by

way of a process of the synthesizing image information data hold control [[step]], for every

arbitrary area of an input image corresponding to the input image information data; and

~~an image information data synthesis step of~~ synthesizing the input image information

data and the synthesizing image information data, according to the control by way of the

process of the synthesis control [[step]].

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The image processing method as recited in Claim

13, wherein:

the synthesizing image hold control [[step]] controls and holds the synthesizing image

information data as a data on a pixel-by-pixel basis.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The image processing method as recited in Claim

13, wherein:

the synthesizing image hold control [[step]] controls and holds information data

obtained by arranging the synthesizing image information data in a table.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The image processing method as recited in Claim 13, wherein:

the synthesis control [[step]] includes ~~a control information data hold control step of~~ controlling hold of the control information data about the control of the synthesis of the synthesizing image information data and the input image information data, and

based on the control information data which is controlled and held by way of the process of the control information data hold control [[step]], the synthesis control [[step]] controls the synthesis of the synthesizing image information data and the input image information data.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The image processing method as recited in Claim 16, wherein:

the synthesis control [[step]] determines, in the arbitrary area, whether each of the plurality of synthesizing image information data which are controlled and held by way of the process of the synthesizing image information data hold control [[step]] is synthesized with the input image information data or not, according to the control information data for specifying the synthesizing image information data corresponding to the synthesizing image which is superimposed on the input image, by selecting it from the plurality of synthesizing image information data which are controlled and held by way of the process of the synthesizing image information data hold control [[step]], the synthesizing image information data which has been determined to be synthesized is controlled so as to be synthesized with the input image information data, and

based on the control by way of the process of the synthesis control [[step]], the image information data synthesis [[step]] synthesizes the input image information data and the

synthesizing image information data so as to superimpose the input image on the synthesizing

image in the arbitrary area.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The image processing method as recited in Claim

16, wherein:

the synthesis control [[step]] controls, in the arbitrary area, the plurality of

synthesizing image information data which are controlled and held by way of the process of

the synthesizing image information data hold control [[step]] so as to be synthesized with the

input image information data at the specified synthesizing ratio, according to the control

information data for specifying the synthesizing ratio of each image information data when

mixing, with the input image, the synthesizing image corresponding to the plurality of

synthesizing image information data which are controlled and held by way of the process of

the synthesizing image information data hold control [[step]], and

based on the control by way of the process of the synthesis control [[step]], the image

information data synthesis [[step]] synthesizes the input image information data and the

synthesizing image information data so as to mix the input image and the synthesizing image

at the specified synthesizing ratio in the arbitrary area.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The image processing method as recited in Claim

16, wherein:

the process of the synthesis control [[step]] further includes a graphics determination

step of determining whether or not graphics exist in the synthesizing image corresponding to

the synthesizing image information data which is synthesized with the input image

information data in the arbitrary area, and

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when it is determined that there are not the graphics through the determination by way

of the process of the graphics determination [[step]], the process of the synthesis control

[[step]] controls the synthesizing image information data so as not to be synthesized with the

input image information data.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The image processing method as recited in Claim

16, wherein:

the amount of data of the control information data is smaller than the amount of data

of the synthesizing image information data which is controlled and held by way of the

process of the synthesizing image information data hold control [[step]].

Claim 21 (Original): The image processing method as recited in Claim 16, wherein:

the control information data is information data on a pixel-by-pixel basis.

Claim 22 (Original): The image processing method as recited in Claim 16, wherein:

the control information data is an information data obtained by arranging transition

points where the control changes, in a table.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The image processing method as recited in Claim

13, further including:

~~an address information data generation step of~~ generating the address information data

which indicates a location in a screen for the input image, wherein

based on the address information data generated by way of the process of the address

information data generation [[step]], the synthesis control [[step]] controls the synthesis of

the input image information data and the plurality of synthesizing image information data

which are controlled and held by way of the process of the synthesizing image information

data hold control [[step]], so that the synthesis locations of the synthesizing image

information data and the input image information data may be positioned properly.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The image processing method as recited in Claim

23, further including:

a synchronizing signal separation step of separating a synchronizing signal added to

the input image information data, wherein

the address information data generation [[step]] generates the address information

data, based on the synchronizing signal separated from the input image information data by

way of the process of the synchronizing signal separation [[step]].

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): An imaging apparatus including:

an imaging means for imaging a photographic subject and capturing taken image

information data which is an acquired image information data;

a synthesizing image information data holding means for holding a plurality of

synthesizing image information data which are synthesized with the taken image information

data captured by the imaging means;

a synthesis control means for controlling synthesis of the taken image information

data and the plurality of synthesizing image information data which are held in the

synthesizing image information data holding means, for every arbitrary area of the taken

image corresponding to the taken image information data; and

an image information data synthesis means for synthesizing the taken image

information data and the synthesizing image information data according to control by means

of the synthesis control means.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): An image processing apparatus in which an input image information data which is an image information data contained in an input image signal is synthesized with a synthesizing image information data which is an image information data different from the input image information data, the image processing apparatus comprising:

a synthesizing image information data holding device for holding a plurality of the synthesizing image information data;

a synthesis control device for controlling synthesis of the input image information data and the plurality of the input synthesizing image information data which are held in the synthesizing image information data holding device, for every arbitrary area of the input image corresponding to the input image information data; and

an image information data synthesis device for synthesizing the input image information data and the synthesizing image information data according to the control by means of the synthesis control device.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): An imaging apparatus including:

an imaging device for imaging a photographic subject and capturing taken image information data which is an acquired image information data;

a synthesizing image information data holding device for holding a plurality of synthesizing image information data which are synthesized with the taken image information data captured by the imaging device;

a synthesis control device for controlling synthesis of the taken image information data and the plurality of synthesizing image information data which are held in the

synthesizing image information data holding device, for every arbitrary area of the taken

image corresponding to the taken image information data; and

an image information data synthesis device for synthesizing the taken image

information data and the synthesizing image information data according to control by means

of the synthesis control device.